

# Getting more out of your Lawn irrigation



How do I get more out of my money when watering my yard? That is a question that we get pretty frequently here with the Town of Rolesville. The first thing that we all need to remember is that the water we use here in Rolesville is supplied by the City of Raleigh. Raleigh is also responsible for treating all wastewater that goes down our drains into the sewer. All fees and regulations that the City of Raleigh puts in place must be adhered to here in Rolesville.

Most know that there is a meter near the road that monitors how much water exits the line in the street and goes into your house/business. Our bills are based on what the meter says we consumed. Not only does it cost money to supply this water out of Falls Lake but it also costs money to treat the wastewater/sewer. The City of Raleigh has no idea of how much wastewater/sewer we release down our drains so a standard percentage is used to calculate how much wastewater has to be treated for every gallon of clean water we use.

When you think about it, the City of Raleigh doesn't treat the water that goes on our lawn. When we turn on the outside faucets and connect to our sprinklers, the water goes into the dirt and does not have to travel down the pipe to the sewer treatment plant. Some say that we are wasting our money but there is a viable option. A solution to this problem is to get another meter...an irrigation meter. This meter is monitored differently than the one supplying water to our house/business. An irrigation meter is only metered and charged for the water used and no wastewater/sewer is calculated into the rate. Therefore the bill you will receive will be considerably less.

How do I get this irrigation meter? That question can easily be answered and is the reason we created this informational brochure. Here are the steps that need to be followed

**Step One: Find a company to install an irrigation system.** There are several companies in the area. Make sure this company is knowledgeable in rules, regulations, and be sure to ask for and check on references. It might save some aggravation down the road. Make sure that they are a licensed plumber with the State of North Carolina. The Town of Rolesville will be verifying that they have all licenses with the Town and the State when a permit is applied for.

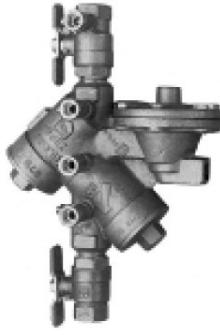
**Step Two: Find a company to do the irrigation meter tap.** There are several companies in the area for this also. The key here is that they must be a licensed utility contractor with the State of North Carolina...not just a licensed plumber. This is crucial requirement of the City of Raleigh, which will also be verified when a permit is applied for. Some irrigation system companies even contract with utility contractors for a turn-key job. Once again, make sure this company is knowledgeable in rules, regulations, and be sure to ask and check on references.

**Step Three: Get the permits.** This is all done at Town Hall in Rolesville (502 Southtown Circle) at a one stop shop in attempts to keep things easy. Do not proceed any further until these permits have been acquired. There are two forms and fees that will need to be paid and picked up. **Form #1** is the Utility Permit Application. The cost is \$2,160 and will need to be made out to the "Town of Rolesville". This fee goes to Raleigh and pays for the cost of the meter and its installation (see step four). **Form #2** is the Wake County Mechanical Permit Application. The cost is \$46 and will need to be made out to "Wake County Inspections". The Town of Rolesville contracts with Wake County to assure that all work complies with the North Carolina State Plumbing Code (see step five). It will not take 15 minutes to fill out this paperwork so don't worry. To save time, come ready with the contractor's names, license numbers, and phone numbers. Town of Rolesville staff will give you all the permit numbers and phone numbers at this time to help you finish out the process. Some irrigation and utility companies will pay all the fees and acquire all the permits for you those of us who are very busy...just ask them.





**Step Four: Have your Irrigation Company install the irrigation system.** Okay, all permits have been acquired and you are ready to have some work done. Contact your irrigation company and let them know everything is ready if they didn't pick up the permit for you. At this time, the irrigation company will install the piping and sprinkler heads that will make watering easier. One of the devices they will need to be installed is called a Backflow Preventer (of the RPZ type). This device will need to be certified later (see step six). The purpose of this device is to assure that any fertilizer, bacteria, sand, and/or dirt in the sometimes get in the sprinkler heads, line, or hose does not contaminate the public line in the ground. This could make you, your neighbor, and many others very sick. Contamination has occurred in other towns so help us make sure it doesn't happen in Rolesville.



**Step Five: Have the Utility Company put in the irrigation meter base.** It is now time for the Utility Company to do their job. The City of Raleigh requires that the company dig up the water line in front of your existing meter, tap on, and put in another meter box and yoke. Once the work is complete then the meter is ready to be set. The homeowner will need to call Raleigh at 890-3245 and let them know. Simply tell them your name, address, and that you are ready to have your irrigation meter set. It will probably take 3 to 5 days to have the meter set.

**Step Six: Have the Irrigation Company certify the backflow preventer.** The backflow preventer protects our drinking water supply and cannot be tested and certified unless it has water to it. Now that the meter has been set, it is ready to be tested. It is the Irrigation Company's responsibility to certify that the device is working properly. The City of Raleigh has a form that will need to be filled out when certification takes place. Once this is done, you or your contractor will need to call Wake County to prove this certification. Call 856-6060 and follow the automated prompts. Wake County has next day inspections so if you call the inspection in today, they will come the following day. If you have any trouble with this automated system, feel free to contact Town Hall at 554-6517 or Wake County Inspection's office at 856-6222. The Wake County Inspector will come to your home and they will need to have a copy of the certification. We recommend that you keep a copy for your records too.

**Step Seven: Pick up your certificate of completion.** You are almost finished with this whole process. The same Backflow Certification Form that was given to Wake County Inspections needs to be brought, faxed, or scanned and emailed to Town Hall. We require a copy of this certification form for our records. We will also give, fax, or email a copy of the certificate of completion to prove that everything is complete and compliant. This is also something that we recommend you keeping for your files.

**Step Eight: Grow grass grow.** You are now ready to start watering the grass. As we said in the beginning though, the City of Raleigh wants to protect this water supply so we must conserve. The City of Raleigh recently formed a committee to study how to better conserve. One of the recommendations was to regulate when we water our grass. If your address is an even number, you can only water the grass on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. If your address is an odd number, you can only water your grass on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. If you have specific questions on watering, it is best to contact the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department at 857-4540.

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT :**

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Planning Department  
502 Southtown Circle  
Rolesville, NC 27571  
Office Phone: 919-554-6517  
Town Phone: 919-556-3506  
Fax: 919-556-6852**

**OR**

**City of Raleigh  
Public Utilities Department  
One Exchange Plaza—Suite 620  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
Office Phone: 919-857-4540  
Fax: 919-857-4545**